GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:780
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2001
DISCONTINUATION OF DD NEWS CHANNEL
MARGARET ALVA

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati is planning to discontinue DD News Channel;

(b) if so, the reasons for its failure and discontinuation;

(c) whether the Government have identified any Officers who are responsible for the huge losses and defaming Doordarshan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)&(b): As a part of Doordarshan restructuring, Prasar Bharati has, in principle, taken adecision to close down DD News and Current Affairs Channel due to its high cost and low visibility. The Board also decided that DD National Channel, which has the highest reach, will carry more programmes on news and current affairs to fulfil the mandate of public service broadcasting more effectively.

(c) & (d) Do not arise.